OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-108

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Sullivan

TO : W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 6/22/64

FROM : W. A. Branigan

1 - W. A. Branigan
1 - W. A. Aull

SUBJECT: OSCAR SEBORER
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA

JUNE

This memorandum advises you of the current status of cases involving Oscar, Stuart and Miriam Zeitlin Seborer and recommends that New York be instructed to continue these cases in a pending inactive status and that the subjects' names be placed in the Unavailable Section of the Security Index. New York has recommended that these cases be closed.

BACKGROUND:

Oscar Seborer, Stuart Jack Seborer and Miriam Zeitlin Seborer, who are presently in Russia, left the U. S. in 1951 shortly after the Rosenberg case became public. According to NY 694-S, they feared becoming involved in charges of espionage. NY 694-S indicated that Isidore Gibby Needleman, a New York attorney and contact of Soviet officials, was involved with the Seborers and that Needleman furnished the information regarding the atom bomb to the Russians which he obtained from Oscar and Stuart Seborer.

After Needleman saw the Seborers in Russia during a trip he made in the Summer of 1963, he indicated that they had no plans to return to the U. S. Miriam Seborer, wife of Stuart, has divorced him and she previously contacted the American Embassy in an effort to leave the Soviet Union. According to Needleman, she was warned to never again try to contact the American Embassy and she is reportedly in "protective custody."

Enclosure

[redacted]

REC 8 [redacted] - 290

1 - [redacted] (Stuart Jack Seborer)
1 - 101-1384 (Miriam Zeitlin Seborer)
1 - 100-341652 (Needleman)

WAA:jak
(8)

6 JUL 1 1964

SOVIET SECTION

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

b3
b7E

Memorandum to W. C. Sullivan
From W. A. Branigan
RE: OSCAR SEBORER [redacted] b3 b7E

In October, 1963, when all logical investigation had been completed and all possible avenues to effect the return of the Seborers had been explored, the New York Office was instructed to place the cases in a pending inactive status. New York has now recommended that the cases be closed.

We have excellent coverage of Needleman through [redacted] and technical surveillances [redacted] In the past, this coverage has given significant information concerning the Seborers and it is reasonably expected that this coverage will continue to produce results. b7E

In view of the seriousness of the allegations of espionage against Oscar, Stuart Jack and Miriam Seborer, it is not believed that we should close these cases. While active investigation can be curtailed to a minimum, we should have a periodic review of these cases to insure that the subjects do not escape. The best way to accomplish this is to put the cases in a pending inactive status. Similarly, their names should be included in the Security Index and since they are outside the U. S., they will be placed in the Unavailable Section.

RECOMMENDATION: Sent AHM

In view of the above, it is recommended that the attached letter be forwarded to the New York Office instructing New York to continue these cases in a pending inactive status so that they will be periodically re-examined.

New York is further instructed to submit the necessary information to place the names of the subjects in the Unavailable Section of the Security Index and to follow the sources presently available in the Needleman investigation in order to insure the development of any information pertinent to these cases.

WAB JPM

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

W. C. Sullivan

W. A. Branigan

9/23/63

1 - Belmont
1 - Sullivan
1 - Branigan
1 - Gurley
1 - Aull

ISIDORE GIBBY NEEDLEMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

JUNE

This memorandum is informative. It sets forth the most recent information obtained from Needleman, a suspected Soviet agent, through NY 694-S regarding the activities of the Seborer brothers who are in Russia. Due to the delicate source from which this data was obtained no dissemination of the information is being made outside the Bureau.

NY 694-S has previously furnished information to the effect that Needleman told him that he furnished data to the Soviets regarding the development of the atom bomb, and that this data was furnished to Needleman by the Seborers who formerly worked for the U. S. Government. The Seborers left the U. S. in 1951 after the Rosenberg case became public and have been in Russia for the past several years.

Miriam Seborer, wife of Stuart Seborer, who is also in Russia, is now divorced from her husband. She has previously contacted the American Embassy and officially made it known that she was in Russia with Stuart and Oscar Seborer under the name "Smith." At that time she requested passport to return to the U. S. Subsequently, she was intercepted by Soviet intelligence agents when she attempted to recontact the American Embassy. She was instructed not to make any further effort to contact the Embassy.

Needleman recently spent approximately three months in the Soviet Union and saw the Seborer brothers. Both Stuart and Oscar Seborer are working for the Academy of Science in Moscow where they are allegedly well paid and have important assignments.

ORIGINAL FILED IN

100-341652

[redacted]

NOT RECORDED
199 OCT 3 1963

b3
b7E

1 - [redacted] (Stuart Jack Seborer)
1 - (Oscar Seborer)
1 - (Max Seborer)
1 - (Miriam Seborer)

WAA:akb:pal
(10)

6 OCT 8 1963

The source learned that Miriam Seborer has been "exiled" by the Soviet Government as a result of her efforts to return to the U. S. and her divorce from her husband Stuart. She is reportedly living in Alma Ata in the Republic of Kirghiz, located between India and Afghanistan. Needleman inferred from the comments of the Seborer brothers that Miriam is in "protective custody." Her mother, Anna Zeitlin, who is also in Russia, has lost her American citizenship as a result of expatriation action.

Needleman indicated to the informant that the Seborers are completely "russified and sovietized." They told Needleman that they were fully aware of the fact that should they return to the U. S. they could be executed for what they did. In this connection Needleman referred to the fact that Stuart Seborer was the "main man in the operation" and the Seborers had given him the plans of the atom bomb which he, Needleman, had transmitted to Amtorg.

In view of the above developments it appears doubtful that Miriam Seborer will ever be permitted to leave the Soviet Union or that we will ever be able to utilize her as a witness in any action against Needleman and the Seborer brothers.

It would also appear that the Seborer brothers will remain in the Soviet Union. We are continuing our active investigation of Needleman. At the present time, we have technical [redacted] coverage on him in addition to live informant coverage. Investigation is being directed toward development of independent corroboration of Needleman's espionage activities. b7E

ACTION:

For information.

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

DATE: December 16, 1955

FROM : MR. W. A. BRANIGAN

J U N E

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

SUBJECT: MAX SEBORER
ESPIONAGE - R

In connection with our coverage of Max Seborer in an effort to determine the location and activities of his brothers, Stewart and Oscar Seborer, we had requested authority to install a technical surveillance on [redacted] It will be recalled that a family circle is planned by the Seborer relatives for December 18, 1955. The Director approved the technical coverage and on this basis ASAC [redacted] was telephonically contacted at approximately 4:45 PM today and advised to [redacted] (provided full security is assured) and inform the Bureau the date and time [redacted] with the [redacted] that would be assigned to them. ASAC [redacted] was advised that the necessary lease line letter would be dispatched from the Bureau on Monday, next.

b6
b7C
b7E

ASAC [redacted] called back at approximately 5:00 PM and advised that it would not be possible [redacted] He stated that the individuals [redacted] will not be available until Monday and it was absolutely impossible [redacted] before them. ASAC [redacted] stated this was a situation which is beyond the control of the New York Office and that [redacted] has issued very strict instructions within its organization as to how these requests for coverage should be handled.

b3
b7E

b6
b7C
b7E

ACTION:

None. Despite the fact that we will not have the technical coverage [redacted] we will have other physical surveillance coverage and other informants alerted.

b7E

[redacted]

b3
b7E

WAB:mn
cc - Mr. Belmont
Mr. Branigan
Mr. Lee
(4)

NOT RECORDED
145 DEC 28 1955

16 DEC 27 1955

6 JAN 4 1956

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

Mr. L. V. Boardman

11-24-56

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

Mr. A. H. Belmont

MAX SEBORER
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

"JUNE"

In November, 1955, Isidore Gibby Needleman, suspected Soviet agent, advised NY 694-S that Stuart and Oscar Seborer, brothers of subject, had been involved in Soviet espionage and had to flee the United States when the Rosenberg case got hot and went to "the big city" (presumably Moscow). Investigation shows Oscar and Stuart, his wife, Miriam, and her mother, Anna Zeitlin, left United States 7-3-51 and were last heard of in Vienna, Austria, January, 1952. Needleman used NY 694-S to give information about missing Seborers to Tim Buck, Canadian Communist Party functionary, and to request Buck to make inquiry in Moscow about the missing Seborers. Buck did so on two trips to Moscow during 1956, and received no information. He was reassured by one Alexai, Assistant to Head of American Section, Central Committee, Communist Party of the Soviet Union, that inquiries would be made.

On 11-23-56 at 7:40 p.m., NY 1015-S* (technical surveillance [redacted] revealed Max Seborer contacted Needleman and told him someone delivered a few letters and he had to write an answer that night and had to deliver that answer to that person. Subject stated "they" (presumed to be missing Seborers) were in East Berlin." Needleman said he would like to see the letters and Seborer agreed to bring them to him later and said he would not be over until 10:30 or 11:00 p.m. as he had to sit down and write a letter. Physical surveillance reflected subject left his apartment building 9:50 p.m., 11-23-56, and proceeded to Needleman's apartment, arriving 10:42 p.m. He left Needleman's apartment building 11:45 p.m. and after having a sandwich returned directly to his apartment, arriving 12:45 a.m., 11-24-56. NY 1015-S* reported that at 11:32 p.m. 11-23-56, Seborer inquired of telephone operator about charges of a call to Mexico. It is noted another brother, Noah Seborer, presently resides in Mexico City.

[redacted] b3 b7E

b7E

Enclosure

1 - [redacted] (Oscar Seborer)
1 - [redacted] (Stuart Seborer)
1 - 101-13[illegible] (Miriam Seborer)
1 - Buffalo [redacted]
1 - Mr. Lee

1 [redacted]

NOT RECORDED
176 NOV 30 1956

b3 b7E

ORIGINAL FILED IN

son
hols
ardman
mont
ir
sons
sen
nm
tter
ise
terrowd
e. Room
loman
ndy

JPL:sls
(7)

6 DEC 7 1956

Memorandum for Mr. Boardman
Re: MAX SEBORER
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

[redacted] b3 b7E

New York Office recommends NY 694-S be briefed on his return from Chicago on 11-26-56 about the letters and instructed to ascertain all details in the letters and the identity of the person delivering the same.

New York Office also recommends reactivation of NY 1671-S*, a technical surveillance which was maintained [redacted] from 12-19-55 until 7-5-56 when it was removed in view of the over-all needs of the Bureau. It is believed NY 1671-S* should be reactivated to obtain information relating to any calls subject may make to his brother Noah or other members of the family relating to these letters. Inasmuch as the Attorney General approved such installation in December, 1955, and coverage has only been discontinued since July, 1956, it is not believed further authority from the Attorney General is needed. b7E

ACTION:

There is attached a teletype to the New York Office instructing:

(1) NY 694-S should be properly briefed about these letters to develop all information from subject and Needleman relating to the contents of the letters, contents of subject's answer and identity of person handling the same.

(2) New York is authorized to reactivate NY 1671-S* to develop information relating to any contacts subject may make relating to these letters.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 01-29-2015 BY F46M82K40 ADC

~~SECRET~~

CC BOARDMAN
BELMONT
BRANIGAN
J.D. DONOHUE
J.P. LEE

December 15, 1955

JUNE

105-31942

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (orig. & 1)

[redacted] b3 b7E

RE: MAX SEBORER
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

In an effort to determine the whereabouts of two brothers of the subject, it is desired to install technical surveillances on [redacted] b7E

Max Seborer is a close associate of Isidore Gibby Needleman, suspected Soviet agent. Information has been received indicating that two of Max' brothers, Oscar and Stuart Seborer, left the United States in July, 1951, and are now in Moscow. Information also has been received indicating that Oscar and Stuart Seborer were involved in Soviet espionage activities while they were in the United States.

We recently have been advised that the Seborer family is holding a meeting in New York City this month and it appears that the missing Seborer brothers may be the reason for this meeting. One other brother, Noah Seborer, has arrived in New York City from Mexico to attend this meeting and is staying at the home of his sister, Mrs. Rose Stone. In view of this, it is believed that we may gain valuable information about the missing Seborer brothers or the reason for the meeting in New York City from technical surveillances on [redacted]

[redacted] b3 b7E

Authority is requested for the installation of technical surveillances on [redacted] b7E

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME pm
DATE 12-16-55
BY

Respectfully,

JPL:EMB (8)

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

JAN 12 1956

APPROVED

DATE

SEE COVER MEMO Belmont to Boardman, 12/15/55, same caption, JPL:emb

~~SECRET~~

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. Boardman

DATE: Dec. 15, 1955

FROM : A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: MAX SEBORER
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

JUNE

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Harbo
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Sizoo
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

By teletype 12/8/55 NYO requested authority for survey for installation of technical surveillances on [redacted]. Authority for surveys granted by telephone call 12/8/55. By attached teletype 12/13/55 NYO requested authority to install technical surveillance [redacted] and by attached teletype 12/14/55 NYO requested authority to install technical surveillance [redacted]. NYO advised security of installations assured.

b7E

On 11/25/55 Isidore Gibby Needleman told NY 694-S that Oscar and Stuart Seborer, brothers of subject, were Soviet agents and that he acted as their contact man. He stated Oscar turned over formula for A-bomb and when the Rosenberg case got "hot" the Seborer brothers had to "blow" and are now in Moscow. Needleman has been using informant in an attempt to obtain info concerning the Seborer brothers' whereabouts through contacts in the Canadian CP. Investigation reflects the brothers left the U.S. in July 1951 and their present location is unknown. We presume they are in Russia.

b3
b7E

On 12/7/55 NYO obtained info from a postman that the subject received a postcard calling for "family circle" 12/18/55 at home of Gertrude Kaplan, a cousin of subject. Noah Seborer, a fourth brother who lives in Mexico City, arrived in NY 12/7/55 to attend this meeting and is staying with his sister, Rose Stone, at 2445 Williamsbridge Road, Bronx, NY.

It is believed the Attorney General should be requested to authorize these technical surveillances since they might furnish info on the reason for this family gathering and might develop info relative to the whereabouts of Oscar and Stuart Seborer.

ACTION: There is attached for your approval a letter to the Attorney General requesting authority to install these technical surveillances.

[redacted]

b3
b7E

JPL:emb
Enclosure
CC: Boardman
Belmont
Branigan
J. D. Donohue
J. P. Lee
(6)

NOT RECORDED
146 DEC 30 1955

10 DEC 29 1955

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN

1 - Mr. Lee
1 - Mr. Boardman
1 - Mr. Belmont

11-24-56

TELETYPE

URGENT

SAC NEW YORK (100-118948) "JUNE"

MAX SEBORER, INTERNAL SECURITY DASH R. REURTEL NOVEMBER TWENTYFOUR LAST. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO REACTIVATE TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCE NY ONE SIX SEVEN ONE DASH S ASTERISK. ADVISE BUREAU TIME AND DATE OF INSTALLATION. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO BRIEF NY SIX NINE FOUR DASH S CONCERNING LETTERS RECEIVED BY SUBJECT AND INSTRUCT HIM TO OBTAIN ALL INFORMATION AS TO CONTENTS, REPLY AND IDENTITY OF PERSON DELIVERING SAME.

HOOVER

[redacted]

NOT RECORDED
176 NOV 29 1956

105-31942

NOTE:
See memo Belmont to Boardman dated 11-24-56, JPL:sls, captioned as above.

1 [redacted] (Oscar Seborer)
1 (Stuart Seborer)
1 - 101-1384 (Miriam Seborer)

b3
b7E

JPL:sls
(8)

NR. 24 2040
ENC. 2040-2045 BY
CK. 2050-55 BY
APPROVED BY
TYPED BY
FILED BY

ORIGINAL FILED IN

TELETYPE

NOV 24 1956
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Nelson
Nichols
Boardman
Belmont
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Tase
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

6 DEC 7 1956

Sent Via 5:54 PM Per